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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SS 35,
GPM 03,SAL 01,SP 02,SC 01,L 03,H 02,P 04,INR 07,NSC 10,RSR 01,
RSC 01,/089 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dawn Izenberg DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XGDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

P R 211115Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5003
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3852
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 758
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2216

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 AIGON 3628

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 3543
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE IN NHA TRANG

1. CIVILIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES APPEARED BEFORE LARGE AND SPIRITED AUDIENCE IN NHA TRANG SOCCER STADIUM AFTERNOON AUGUST 20. AS NOTED REFTEL, MEETING WAS WELL ORGANIZED, CONTRARY TO CHARGES MADE BY TRUONG DINH DZU TO FOREIGN PRESS. CROWD APPEARED TO REPRESENT A GOOD CROSS-SECTION

(1)

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OF NHA TRANG, OUT FOR SUNDAY AFTERNOON ENTERTAINMENT. THERE WERE FEW MILITARY MEN IN EVIDENCE. MORE THAN 20 FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS COVERED THE MEETING.

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2. ORDER OF CANDIDATES' PRESENTATIONS WAS DETERMINED BY DRAWING LOTS. THIEU-KY SLATE WAS TO HAVE APPEARED FIRST. THEIR LOCAL REPRESENTET VE, A FORMER VILLAGE CHIEF OF BAST NHE TRANG, APOLOGIZ FOR THEI ABSENCE.

3. SECOND TO APPEAR WAS NGUYEN THE TRUYEN, REPRESENTING THE HIEP-TRUYEN SLITE. TRUYEN SAID THAT HIEP WAS UNABLE TO COME TO NHA TRANG BECAUSE OF PRESS CONFERENCE HE HAD ORGANIZED IN SAIGON. TRUYEN READ PREPARED SPEECH, BUT DID SO IN RATHER LIVELY FASHION. TRUYEN, IN WHAT PROVED TO BE ONE OF MILDER ATTACKS ON GVN DURING COURSE OF MEETING, CHARGED THIEU AND KY WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DONG HA AFFAIR. HE PROMISED VOTERS MORE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IF ELECTED. TRUYEN ALSO NOTED THAT HE AND HIEP KNOW MANY OF THE TOP LEADERS OF NORTH VIET-NAM, AND THEREFORE WILL BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THEM EFFECTIVELY. HE RECEIVED A POLITE HEARING.

4. NGUYEN DINH QUAT WAS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK THIRD. HOWEVER, HIS LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT "FOR SPECIAL REASONS" HE WAS

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UNABLE TO APPEAR. QUAT DID ARRIVE LATER, HOWEVER, AND WAS ALLOWED TO SPEAK WHEN OTHERS HAD FINISHED. HESAID HE WAS INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ON WAY TO TAN SON NHUT AND HAD MISSED PLANE. (APPARENTLY HE MANAGED TO CATCH A LATER FLIGHT.) AS IS HIS WONT, HE RECALLED HIS RACE AGAINST DIEM AND KINDNESS LOCAL VOTERS HAD SHOWN TO HIM THEN.

5. HA THUC KY WAS FOURTH. HE READ HIS STANDARD CAMPAIGN SPEECH (E.G. PLEDGING TO CARRY OUT A TRUE REVOLUTION, ELIMINATE CORRUPTION, ETC.), ALTHOUGH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCES TO KHANH HOA.) KY THEN ALLOWED TIME FOR QUESTIONS, FIRST OF WHICH WAS IN REFERENCE TO ALLEGED REMARK BY PRIME MINISTER KY DEMEANING DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. KY SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER MERELY REVEALED HIS TRUE COLORS. HE ADDED THAT PRIME MINISTER HAS DURING THE PAST YEAR CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED HIS CONTMEPT FOR DEMOCRACY. ASKED WHETHER HE, AS HEAD OF REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET PARTY, WOULD GIVE RDV MEMBERS SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN FORMATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT, KY

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ASSURED AUDIENCE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL GROUPS. NEXT IN AN APPARENTLY WELL ORCHESTRATED SET OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING

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"PROBLEM OF RELIGIONS". KY SAID THAT GOVERNMENT MUST HELP RELIGION BUT MUST NEVER INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF RELIGOINS AND MUST NEVER USE RELIGIONS FOR PARTISAN PURPOSES. EACH OF KY'S RESPONSES DREW ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE. FINALLY, KY WAS ASKED THIS OPINION OF NEW UBA CHARTER. HOWEVER, HIS TIME HAD RUN OUT AND HE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO ANSWER. HE RETIRED
TO LOUD APPLAUSE.

6. TRUONG DINH DZU ZAS WAITING IN WINGS. BOUNDING UP TO MICROPHONE DZU DECLARED THAT HE WOULD "BE GLAD TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION". DZU CHAGED THAT GVN DECREE APPROVING CHARTER WAS ILLEGAL AND UNCONSITITUTIONAL, AND THAT IN ANY CASE UBA CHARTER CAN BE REVISED ONLY WITH APPROVAL OF UBA CONGRESS. TO PROVE HIS POINT DZU QUOTED NUMBER AND DATE OF PERTINENT DECREES, CHAPTER AND VERSE OF CONSTITUTION ND OLD UBA CHARTER. HE WAS INTERRUPTED SEVERAL TIMES BY APPLAUSE. DZU WENTON TO CHARGE, AS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY, THAT GVN APPROVAL OF TAM CHAU CHARTER WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH COULD SERVE AS AN EXCUSETO POSTPONE ELECTIONS.

7. DZU THEN BLASTED THIEU AND KY FOR NOT GOING ON JOINT CAMPAIN TRIPS, AND FOR TAKING UNFAIR ADVANTAGE IN CAMPAIGN.

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CIVILIAN CANDIDATES APPEAR BEFORE MEAGER CROWDS (CROWD WAS GY THIS TIME QUITE LARGE) WHILE PROVINCE CHIEFS FORCE PEOPLE TO ATTEND SPEECHES BY THIEU OR KY. CROWD APPLAUDED LUSTILY. DZU ADMONISHED VOTERS THAT FUTURE OF VIETNAM IS IN THEIR HANDS. HE NOTED THAT THIS IS THEIR CHANCE TO GET RID OF THIEU AND KY. DZU'S PRESENTATION WAS FORCEFUL AND CLEVER,

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AND EMBOFF HAD IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS APPRECIATED BY CROWD.

8. REPRESENTATIVE OF HOANG CO BINH SPOKE NEXT. HE SAID THAT BINH HAS UNDERTAKEN A SEPARATE CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE, BUT PROMISED AUDIENCE THAT BINH WOULD COME TO NHA TRANG AT A LATER DATE./

9. LY QUOC SINH FOLLOWED. HE SAID THAT HIS RUNNING MATE PHAM HUY CO IS CAMPAIGNING SEPARATELY, "IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO MEET MANY MORE PEOPLE". SINH SAID CO WOULD, IF POSSIBLE, COME TO NHA TRANG LATER. IN HIS SPEECH SINH AGAIN EMPHASIZED PEACE-THROUGH-VICTORY. COMMUNISTS, HE CAUTIONED, NEVER NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH. CROWD WAS UNRESPONSIVE UNTIL QUESTION PERIOD, WHEN SINH WAS ASKED "WHAT DO YOU WANT, 30 MORE YEARS OF WAR?" AUDIENCE APPLAUDED QUESTION. SINH REPLIED THAT

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NON-MILITARY SOLUTION, THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF STRONG AND DISCIPLINED SOCIETY, IS POSSIBLE. NEGOTIATIONS WITH COMMUNISTS ARE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, HOWEVER.

10. TRAN VAN HUON AND MAI THO TRUYEN FOLLOWED SINH. THEY WERE GREETED BY WARM, SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE. HUONG SPOKE FIRST. AFTER THANKING PEOPLE FOR STAYING ON THROUGH HEAT AND SHOWERS (LIGHT RAINFELL INTERMITTENTLY, ALTHOUGH SUN WAS ALWAYS SHINING), HUONG DESCRIBED TWO PROBLEMS "AFFECTING NHA TRANG AND ALL OF VIET NAM". FIRST IS RISING COST OF LIVING, SECOND IS SOCIAL DISLOCATION. PRESENT GOVVERNMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SOLVE EITHER OF THESE PROBLEMS. SIUTATION CAN BE CHANGED BY ELECTION. HUONG URGED VOTERS TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS WISELY AND CAREFULLY. IF VOTERS "BOW TO PRESSURE" OR ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE BRIBED, THEIR BALLOTS WILL BE MEANINGLESS, AND PRESENT END FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BEAR CONSEQUENCES. HUONG RECEIVED WARM APPLAUSE.

11. MAI THO TRUYEN THEN SPOKE (HUD -TRUYEN AND SUU-DAN WERE ONLY COMPLETE SLATES TO APPEAR). TRUYEN NOTED THAT IT WAS GOOD

TO BE BACK AMONG MY FELLOW BUDDHISTS OF NHA TRANG. HE SAID THAT MAJOR PROBLEM CONFRONTING VIET-NAM IS HOW TO END WAR.
UNQUOTE BUNKER

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INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SS 35,
GPM 03,SAL 01,SP 02,SC 01,L 03,H 02,P 04,INR 07,NSC 10,RSR 01,
RPC 01,/089 W

P R 211152Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5005
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3853
CINCPAC
DA NANG 759
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2217

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THERE MUST BE PEACE, BUT PEACE IN HONOR. A SECOND IMPORTANT PROBLEM IS NEED TO BUILD A DEMOCRACY BASED ON MORALITY, AND TO RESTORE SPIRITUAL VALUES DESTROYED BY WAR. TRUYEN DREW A GOOD HAND WHEN HE SAID IN CLOSING THAT VIET-NAM WAR IS "A WAR BETWEEN BROTHERS OF ONE HOUSE, VIETNAMESE AGAINST VIETNAMESE."

12. IN QUESTION PERIOD HUONG WAS ASKED WHY, IF PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS AS BAD, "IT HAS LASTED TWO YEARS WHILE YOURS LASTED ONLY THREE MONTHS." HECKLER WAS SHOUTED DOWN AND HUONG DID NOT REPLY. ANOTHER LISTENER ASKED IF HUONG HAD IN FACT RE-

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CEIVED A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH. HUONG BRIEFLY RECOUNTED HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH MINH, AND

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S TO THAT YES, HE HAD RECEIVED LETTER "WISHING ME SUCCESS." AUDIENCE APPLAUDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY.

13. NINTH TO APPEAR WERE PHAN KHAC SUU AND PHAN QUANG DAN. SUU SAID COMING ELECTIONS WILL ENABLE VIETNAMESE TO ONCE AGAINS CONTROL THEIR DESTINY. HE SECONDED HUONGS ADMINI- TION THAT VOTERS SHOULD USE THEIR BALLOTS WISELY AND SHOULD NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY PRESSURE OR BRIBERY. SUU REPEATED HIS USAL STATEMENT THAT HE AND DAN ARE RUNNING IN ORDER TO COM- PLETE THEIR REVOLUTIONARY PROGRAM AND TO PARTICIPATE IN FULFILL- MENT OF CONSTITUTIONALISM. HE CAUTIONED THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO SEEK TO SABOTAGE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. VOTERS MUST BE ON GUARD AGAINST THOSE ELEMENTS. SUU SPOKE WITHOUT NOTES AND MADE FORCEFUL AND EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION. (EMBOFFS BELIEVE HE IS MORE IMPRESSIVE SPEAKING TO A CROWD THAN HE APPEARS ON TELEVISION OR IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS.) HE RECEIVED GOOD RESPONSE FROM CROWD.

14. DR DAN BEGAN BY NOTING THAT FOUR YEARS HAVE NOW GONE

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BY SINCE SACRIFICE OF VENERABLE QUANG DUC. THANKS TO THAT BUDDHIST REVOLT, A DICTATORSHIP WAS OVERTHROWN. NOW, ONCE AGAIN, GOVERNMENT IS INTEREFERING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF RELIGIONS. DAN PROTESTES SUCH INTEREENCE, AND CHARGED THAT GVN TRIES TO FOSTER DISUNITY. ELIMINATION OF BUDDHIST AND CVT UPPER HOUSE SLATES ARE EXAMPLES OF THIS. DAN WENT ON TO BLAST GVN ECONOMIC POLICIES, AND ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT GVN MUST ALWAYS GUARD ITS SOVEREIGNTY, EVEN IN ITS DEALINGS WITH UNITED STATES. CROWD APPARENTLY LIKED WHAT DAN HAD TO SAY AND APPLAUDED HIM WITH CONSIDERABLE ENTHUSIASM.

15. SUU AND DAN ALSO ALLOWED TIME FOR QUESTIONS. FIRST WAS FROM AN UNFRIENDLY LISTENER, WONDERING IF IT IS TRUE THAT SUU IS "PLIABLE." SUU CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THIS IS TRUE, AND DREW WARM APPLAUSE. DR DAN THEN TOOK MICROPHONE AND GAVE QUES- TIONER HARSH ESSING-DOWN. DAN SAID THAT SUU IS REVOLU- TIONARY FIGHTER; HE RECOGNIZES NECESSITY FOR COMPROMISE, BUT IS HARDLY "PLIABLE." SUU AND DAN DREW HEARTY APPLAUSE

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WHEN THEY LEFT PLATFORM.

16. LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF VU HONG KHANH WAS NEXT TO SPEAK. HE COULD HARDLY BE HEARD OVER SOUND OF MOTORBIKES AS CROWD

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BEGAN TO BREAK UP. UNDAUNTED, HE SPOKE FOR FULL FIFTEEN MINUTES, TO RAPIDLY DWINDLING AUDIENCE.

17. TRAN VAN LY WAS LAST SCHEDULED SPEAKER (FOLLOWED, HOWEVER, BY THE LATE ARRIVING MR QUAT). LY AND QUAT PRESENTATIONS WERE DISTINCTLY ANTI-CLIMATIC.

18. COMMENT: A) ALTHOUGH SUU, HUONG AND KY DID WELL, DZU PERFORMANCE STOLE THE SHOW IN NHA TRANG. DZU WAS ALSO CENTER OF ATTENTION FOR FOREIGN PRESS, SINCE HE IS AS OUTSPOKEN IN ENGLISH AS IN VIETNAMESE. HIS CHARGES THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES FAILED TO ORGANIZE SEETING PROPERLY WERE OVERDRAWN, AS PRESS SEEMED TO RECOGNIZE. KHAN HOA PROVINCE CHIEF LT COL LE KHANH WAS DISTURBED BY DZU'S CRITICISM, HOWEVER. HE THOUGHT HE HAD DONE WELL IN ORGANIZING THE EVENT (WHICH HE HAD) AND WAS ANXIOUS TO LEARN WHETHER NHA TRANG MEETING COMPARED FAVORABLY WITH MEETING IN QUI NHON. (IT DID).
B) IT APPEARS THAT THIEU-KY ARE NOT ONLY ONEW WHO HAVE SO FAR CHOSEEN NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT CAMPAIGN. BOTH HOANG CO BINH AND PHAN HUY CO SEEM TO HAVE OPTED OUT.
BUNKER

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